

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

DRC-01 PM-07 PRS-01 USIE-00 /147 W

----- 081913

O R 111150Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3357

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC CP SMITH HI

COMUSMACTHAI

JCS WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USAAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 10994

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJ: RICE SUPPLY CRISIS

REFS: (A) BANGKOK 15841 (B) PHNOM PENH 10716

1. TYPHOON IN CAMBODIA-SINGAPORE, HONG KONG AREA HAS UPSET RICE SHIPPING SCHEDULE REPORTED REF (B).

2. AS A RESULT AND AS WE HAVE BEEN WARNING, A RICE SUPPLY CRISIS WILL BE UPON US IN THE LAST HALF OF OCTOBER UNLESS EVEN MORE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES ARE TAKEN.

3. THE EARLIEST MORE RICE CAN ARRIVE BY SHIP FROM THAILAND ON
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THE BASIS OF REF (A) SCHEDULE, IS OCTOBER 22. ON THAT DATE, PHNOM

PENH WILL HAVE LESS THAN A ONE-WEEK SUPPLY OF RICE ON HAND. MORE-OVER, MOST OF THAT WILL BE OF THE POOREST QUALITY. WE HAVE SAMPLES OF WHAT IS BEING DISTRIBUTED. THE BEST DESCRIPTION IS WAREHOUSE SWEEPINGS, AND IN TAM AND HIS ENEMIES ARE ALREADY SPARRING OVER WHO IS RESPONSIBLE (SEPTTEL).

4. THERE IS DANGER THAT THIS CAPITAL IS ON THE VERGE OF FOOD RIOTS. THIS MORNING THE KHMER LANGUAGE PRESS CONTAINED THE FIRST OF WHAT NO DUBT WILL BE CONTINUING STORIES ON THE RICE SHORTAGE.

5. THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION THAT THE RICE AIRLIFTS FROM BATTAMBANG AND KOMPONG CHNNANG WHICH WE HAVE STARTED ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. NOTE THAT PARKING FACILITIES AT BATTAMBANG LIMIT DAILY SORTIES TO A MAXIMUM OF 10.

6. FOR SAIGON: REQUEST USAID/SAIGON DISPATCH TO BANGKOK REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINK'S OFFICE TO MONITOR LOADING OF SHIPS AND EXPEDITE SHIPMENTS.

7. FOR BANGKOK: WE WOULD APPRECIATE A DAILY STATUS REPORT ON LOADING AND SHIPPING PROGRESS.

8. FOR WASHINGTON: WISH TO ALERT YOU THAT AN AIRLIFT FROM THAILAND MAY BE NECESSARY TO PRESERVE GOOD ORDER IN THIS CITY. ENDERS

SECRET

NNN

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